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U.S. Department of Agriculture

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.

States Relations Service,
Office of Extension Work,
Washington, D. C.

Extracts from the

HEARING

before

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

consisting of

Messrs. Sydney Anderson (Chairman), Walter W. Magee,
Edward H. Wason, James P. Buchanan, and
Gordon Lee

In charge of the

AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1923.

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Second Session

EXTRACTS

Comments in Regard to the Work of the Subject Matter Specialists.

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State and District Leaders

MR. ANDERSON: What do the items "Leadership in the county agents' work" and "Home demonstration work" mean? What is that for?

DR. TRUE: Those are for what we would call State leaders, or district leaders, who supervise the work of the county agents, and also go out to help them in their work and supplement it.

MR. ANDERSON: The fact is, you have got about \$7,000,000 worth of people telling \$11,000,000 worth of people what to do. That is about what it amounts to.

DR. TRUE: Well, I don't think so, Mr. Anderson. Of course, if you look upon this as being merely an administrative force, in the narrow sense of the term, that would be true, but that is not the fact; those people are helping to more thoroughly organize the work in the counties. They do a considerable amount of the actual extension work.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, they run around the country to county fairs, watching horse races.

DR. TRUE: Well, I don't know that they do that, incidentally.

MR. PUGSLEY: May I add a statement?

MR. ANDERSON: Surely.

MR. PUGSLEY: The people who are hired under the funds that you spoke of as people who are directing others, are really not directing others in the sense you have in mind, I think. That is, acting as their bosses. I am speaking now from an experience of seven years as an extension director in Nebraska, and the experience of several years immediately following that, in which I observed the work from the outside. All those who are hired as specialists do no directing of the county agents at all. They are merely assisting the county agents in the work. The county agent can not be a specialist in every line of work. His job is often to get the farmers in need of information in contact with the man who has the information. It necessarily must be that way, because the farmers are becoming better trained in general lines of work and they must have more detailed and special instructions. Therefore, from the technical departments of the colleges and of the Department of Agriculture, there must be people available who are trained in the technical work such as soils, crops, diseases of plants, home economics, etc. Specialists are also needed who are also trained in extension teaching methods. These people are subject to the call of the county

agents when there is a problem in the county which they can not solve; also when they are arranging special meetings or demonstrations. A very large part of the money is spent for work of that sort rather than for administration.

MR. ANDERSON: No, I say it is top heavy on specialists and leaders and getting more so every year.

MR. PUGSLEY: The economical method of handling this sort of work is to have some person who is exceptionally well trained along one line to send where there is a real need of that sort of work, rather than to have a person trained, to be in each county, along every line of work. It is impossible for one person to be trained along all lines.

MR. ANDERSON: I know, but he can not have a lot of fellows sitting up here in these colleges waiting for somebody to tell them that army worms are down in Iowa.

MR. PUGSLEY: That is true; but they are not sitting around there. They have many more calls than they can fill.

DR. BALL: Oh, they are working, and working right straight along on definite projects of development work which they are carrying out. When an outbreak comes every one of these men is ready and available at the time, but they are continually working on some piece of development work.

MR. ANDERSON: Well, I still think that this thing is top-heavy; when you are spending \$7,000,000 for leadership and \$8,000,000 for work in the county, then, whatever it is, it is top-heavy.

Leaders of Boys' and Girls' Clubs

MR. ANDERSON: Now, you know all about this thing. Tell me why it is necessary to have \$615,000 in leadership as against \$752,000 for county extension work in the boys' and girls' club proposition?

MR. PUGSLEY: Is there any such situation as that, Dr. True?

DR. TRUE: This is the situation with reference to that. There are special club leaders in only about 200 counties. At the same time there has been organized a company of young people amounting to a half million, most of whom are in counties where there is no county club leader, and that organization does not represent by any means the full extent of the work, because many of the children are reached who are not actually organized in the clubs. Now, these State club leaders go out into the counties where there is club work to be done and follow that up, in the absence of county club workers. It is a big enterprise.

MR. ANDERSON: You have got 700 specialists?

MR. PUGSLEY: Administrators, specialists, and agents covering more than a county. I imagine there are not enough actual specialists in the list, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ANDERSON: And it never would be, I imagine.

MR. PUGSLEY: Probably not, but it is certainly not now enough to supply the demand that is coming from the farmers for special types of work along special lines.

MR. ANDERSON: How many people have you employed under this leadership item of \$861,000 -- county agent work?

MR. MERRITT: About 200.

MR. ANDERSON: And how many under the leadership for home demonstrations?

MR. MERRITT: About 145.

MR. ANDERSON: And in boys' and girls' club work?

MR. MERRITT: One hundred and ten.

MR. ANDERSON: That is approximately 1,155 as against 2,000 county agents.

MR. MERRITT: Yes sir.

* * * * *

MR. ANDERSON: Are there not a good many cases in which they had county agents last year where they did not have any this year?

DR. TRUE: Oh, there is here and there a case, but take the sum total, we have an increased number of counties.

MR. ANDERSON: How much?

DR. TRUE: About 30 or 40, I think.

MR. MERRITT: Compared with a year ago it is 42 more.

* * * * *

MR. ANDERSON: Do those leaders and specialists give all of their time to this extension work?

DR. TRUE: There are in the whole force, as I remember the figures now, 540 part-time employees. In some cases it is not necessary -- it has not been deemed necessary so far to employ the full time of the specialists, so he spends half of his time, more or less, according to the agreement, and his salary is made proportionate to that. The rest of the time he gives to experiment station work or to the college teaching.

MR. PUGSLEY: That is quite desirable, too, where an arrangement can be made that way, because it keeps the specialist up to date on new methods. He is devoting some of his time to actual research work in the line that he is engaged in in the extension work out in the field.

MR. ANDERSON: The principal advantage apparently is with most of these 50-50 propositions; it increases the salary of the people engaged in them.

MR. PUGSLEY: That was true as far as Nebraska was concerned. All the colleges have their scale of salaries and they hold the extension people down to the same salaries within the college that the other force is held to.

MR. ANDERSON: That may be the case in Nebraska, but I doubt if it is true as a general proposition.

MR. PUGSLEY: I think you will find it true with most colleges. It is not true with county workers, because they are on an independent basis there. Where the Government says it will put in \$500 and the State says it will put in \$500 or \$1,000 and then the county has its fund, it can pay whatever salary it desires to get the man it wants.

DR. BALL: There are counties in many States that pay more for county agents than the director of extension gets.

MR. PUGSLEY: Oh, yes, many of them; but those who are working out from the central plant, the agricultural college, have their salaries held on an average with the others at the college. You could not put them above, whether it is a 50-50 proposition or not.

MR. ANDERSON: I know, but it helps to raise the whole standard of salaries, all of them down the line.

DR. BALL: But the salary is provided for, and it can not be more than a certain amount.

MR. ANDERSON: Oh, that may be true in isolated cases.

MR. PUGSLEY: That is generally true, I think.

MR. ANDERSON: It is not true in my district.

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SEC. WALLACE: Does that cover about what you had in mind, Mr. Anderson?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, as I said before, I think there are a good many people up here on the hill who feel that the specialist end of this game is rather overemphasized.

MR. PUGSLEY: I think that is true, Mr. Anderson, but I think that comes particularly from a misunderstanding of what the specialists are doing. I think they feel that the amount of money that is paid to workers that go out from a central plant in the State or from the Department of Agriculture here is money spent for administration purposes. Now, that is not true, particularly in the States.

There are some counties that can not afford a county agent, and in many of the States, particularly of the poorer States, several of the counties are grouped and have to depend upon the same person, either located in that division or else located at a central plant, who does the work exactly as the county agent does it, except covers a very much larger territory. I believe that by next year, knowing this misunderstanding, which is a perfectly natural misunderstanding in the way the statements have appeared, that I can make these features so that you will clearly see just exactly what the money is spent for. It will not appear as if it is administration money.

MR. ANDERSON: I have this impression about it; I recognize the advantage of having technically trained men who work with and discuss problems which require technical consideration - questions of horticulture and spraying, treatment of diseases, and things of that sort - but, after all, the man who goes down to a county semioccasionally from a university or from the Department of Agriculture, does not have the contact that the local man does, or the acquaintance or influence in the community. Besides that, he wastes an enormous amount of time and money in traveling around the country making contacts that are necessary for him to do any good. I do not think it is simply a question of the Members of the House feeling that too much money is spent in administration. I think there is also a feeling that the thing is too much from the top down and too little from the ground up.

You can not reach a whole lot of these people on the basis that you are talking to them from a university. You have got to get to their problems on the ground, and from the standpoint of the farmer himself. I know that there are a great many farmers who feel that sort of uplift proposition, even though it may be educational in character, does not have the influence that it would have if it had closer contact with the farmer's problem from his point of view, rather than from the scientist's point of view.

EXTRACTS

Discussion of Extension Work on the Floor of the
House of Representatives

Congressional Record, March 11, 1922.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman from South Carolina moves to strike out the last two words.

MR BYRNES of South Carolina: I do that in order to obtain recognition, not because I am opposed to the work or to the consolidation. I want to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that in addition to the total appropriations carried in this bill for demonstration work, amounting to \$7,000,000, that fund is supplemented by appropriations from the States and counties amounting approximately to \$11,000,000, making a total of \$18,000,000 for demonstration work in the country. That large sum is expended under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, and because I am in favor of this demonstration work I regret exceedingly that there seems to be a tendency in the Department to divert too large a proportion of this fund from the purpose for which it was originally intended; namely, the expenditure in counties for demonstration work by county agents, bringing to the farms assistance in solving the problems that daily confront the farmer and the farmer's wife, to the employment of specialists and leaders and supervisors.

The hearings develop the fact that of this \$18,000,000 fund almost \$7,000,000 is expended to direct the activities of \$11,000,000 worth of people, as the chairman of this subcommittee expressed it. The fact is that they are spending for specialists \$3,355,000. The specialists make headquarters at the agricultural colleges and necessarily spend most of their time on the train. It was never intended by Congress that so large a sum should be diverted to the employment of specialists. Yet it appears from the hearings that this is the policy of the officials of the Department, judging from the statement of Mr. Pugsley, who is in charge of this work. He says:

"I believe that the work would be more effective and the money would be better spent if we would take some of the money that has gone into the poorest agents trained and put into the trained specialists who would be assistants in the field. They would be more highly trained men for special work, and you could get better results among the farmers. The farmers are growing to feel that way also, as they become better acquainted with the work."

The fact is, if they were to take some of the money that they are spending for specialists and spend it for the purposes that Congress intended it to be expended for, for county agents, they would not have so many poor

county agents. They would have county agents better equipped to render the service that Congress intended should be rendered in the counties. The employment of some specialists is wise, but the problems of the farm differ in every county, and the best service can be rendered by the county agents. The \$2,000,000 spent for specialists would, if diverted to county agents, insure the employment of more capable men. They propose to spend for leaders of clubs and leaders of county agents approximately \$2,000,000, which is entirely too much. I have no objection to the amount spent for administration, but I would like to ask the chairman of the subcommittee, who from the hearings evidently shares the views I have expressed, whether he has any objection to placing a limitation upon the amount that shall be expended for specialists under this item?

MR. ANDERSON: I think it would be wholly ineffective if it were done, unless it were applied to funds available under the Smith-Lever Act as well as under this.

MR. BYRNES of South Carolina: Well, I agree with the gentleman, but what does he say as to both items?

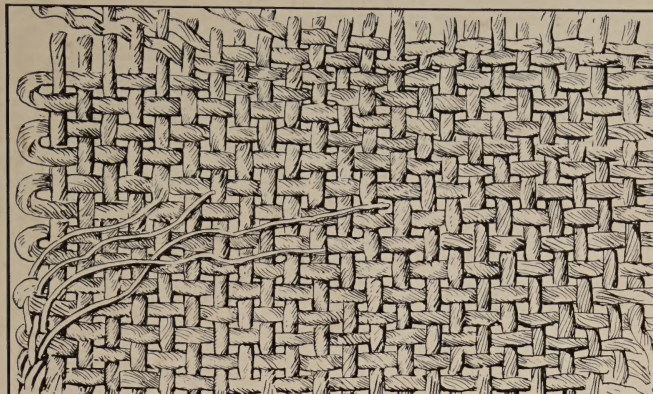
MR. ANDERSON: I think, of course, I would have to object to legislation modifying the terms of the Smith-Lever Act.

MR. BYRNES of South Carolina: Does the gentleman approve of their spending this large amount for specialists?

MR. ANDERSON: That is a rather difficult question. I am frank to say that I am of the opinion I expressed in the hearings, that the whole proposition is rather top-heavy. Now, whether that is entirely in the specialists or in the leadership is rather difficult to say; but my understanding is that the Secretary is now undertaking a reorganization of this whole extension work with the idea of coordinating the leadership so that so large a part of the funds will not hereafter be spent in that way.

MR. BYRNES of South Carolina: If the gentleman is of the opinion that the Department itself will reorganize the service, they can do it more effectively than we could by placing a limitation upon the expenditure of funds in this bill, and they can do it in such manner that no injury will be done to the demonstration work.

SOME TYPES OF WEAVES



PLAIN OR TABBY WEAVE

The filling (crosswise) yarns pass alternately over and under the warp (lengthwise) yarns with each succeeding filling.

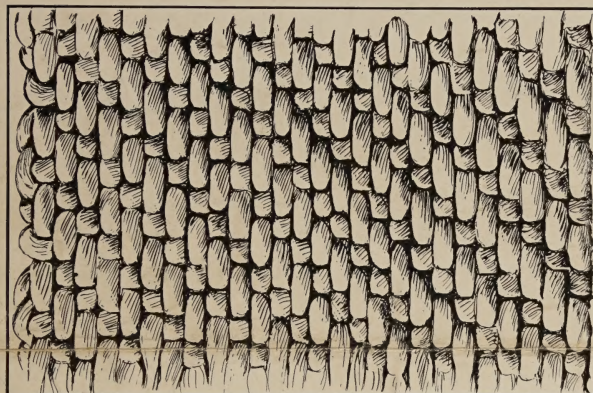
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BASKET WEAVE

A variation of the plain weave, in which two or more adjacent warp and filling yarns are woven as though they were one.

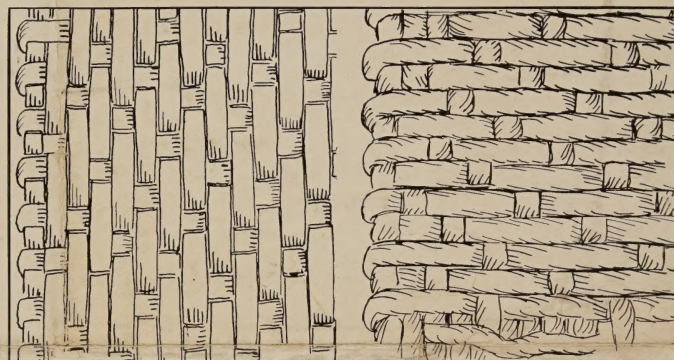
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TWILL WEAVE

The filling passes over and under different numbers of warp yarns with regular variations so that diagonal lines are formed across the fabric.

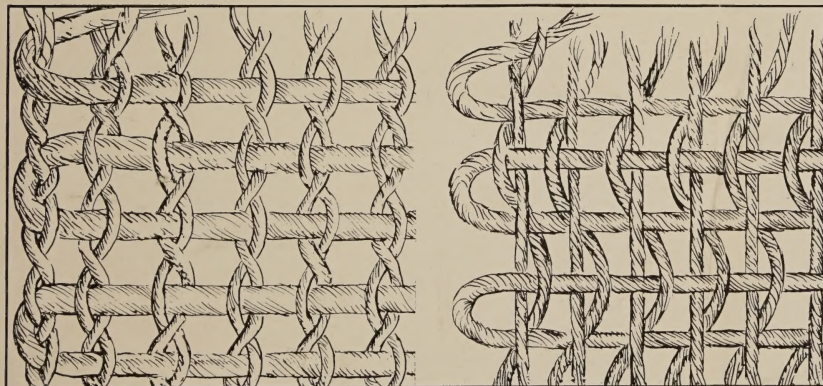
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SATIN WEAVE AND SATEEN WEAVE

A satin weave is a variation of the twill in which a filling passes over or under a greater number of warp yarns than it does in a twill. Since the yarns in satins are softer and have less twist than those used for twills, the diagonal effect is less prominent. Satins are lustrous because they reflect light. When the filling instead of the warp yarns are on the surface, a sateen results.

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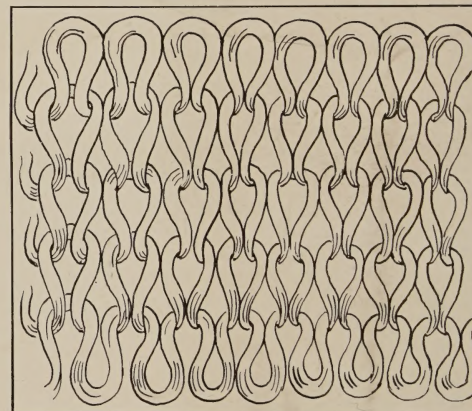


LENO (SOMETIMES CALLED GAUZE) WEAVES

The warp yarns are arranged in pairs and cross one another between the picks or filling yarns.

21957-C

30551-C



PLAIN KNITTING STITCH

Knitting differs from weaving in that one yarn forms the entire fabric by being fashioned into a series of interlocking loops

21956-C

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